PHILADELPHIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1914.

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ITALY TO FIGHT IF PORTE FAILS TO FREE BRITON

Cabinet Demands Speedy Reparation for Violation of Hodeidah Consulate. Must Release Official.

Trouble With Austria Also Presaged in Occupation of Avlona. German Troops Patrol Border in the Trentino.

ROME, Dec. 31. Italy will be plunged into the European war within a few days, it is believed in many quarters here today, following the ultimatum issued yesterday to Turkey demanding the release within two days of the British Consul seized at Hodeledah. Not only with Turkey are Italian rela-

tions strained. Austria is aroused by the Italian occupation of Aviona, and Germany has sent a detachment of troops into the Trentino, on the Austro-Italian frontier. Beisure of the missionary school at Aleppo, in Asia Minor, by the Turks also has angered Italy.

Should Italy enter the war it is believed it will be against the whole Teuton

However, at the Cabinet meeting today, called to discuss the Turkish situation, opinions were expressed by certain members that Turkey, facing the issue squarely, would make the required amends at once.

The Government's patience is exhausted,

and Turkey has been peremptorily noti-fied that the British Consul at Hodelda must be released and the gendarmes who broke into the Italian Consulate must be

Turkey has been warned that no excuse for further delay will be accepted and a satisfactory reply is demanded within two Italy's momentous move in occupying

Aviona and the surrounding hill country in Albania has aroused intense irritation in Austria-Hungary. A correspond-ent, telegraphing from the frontier, says the Germans have intervened in Vienna in an effort to prevent Austro-Italian friction at this delicate juncture. Count Berchtold had a long conference with Emperor Francis Joseph on the on the guestion. Upon returning to the Foreign Office he sent at once for the Italian Ambassador, who, it is reported, was requested to procure from Rome & statement of Italian declaration last October that its latest move was merely a police measure for the time being applied in virtue of the decisions of the London con-

Blood Transfusion Saves Singer NEW YORK, Dec. 31.—Following an operation in which blood transfusion was involved at the Roosevelt Hospital last night, Mme. Gerville-Reache, formerly leading contralto at the Manhattan Opera House, is out of danger and resting

THE WEATHER



If the year is new tomorrow the weather today is not. Which is all the comment necessary. And speaking of the new year-with inspiring originality on December 31-let's be serious for once. You remember quite well, don't you, that peculiar trend of thought your mind follows on your own birthday occasions, be it at the age of 7 or 70? They-the thoughts-are quite indiscribable. If you don't know what is meant, your case is more or less hopeless. Well, tonight comes the birthday of a world-the same mort of birthday as your own, only raised to the billion and half power, and occurring again after millions and millions of times. Millions of times for a billion and a half like us. Think about it.

FORECAST

For Philadelphia and vicinity-Generally cloudy with no change in temperature today. Colder tonight and tomorrow. For details, see page 2.

Observations at Philadelphia

8 A, M.	
Barometer 30.23	
Wind	
Mky Cloudy	
Presinitation last 24 hours, None	
Minimum temperature	
Maximum Lemperature	
With the same of t	
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	
Almanac of the Day	

Lamps to Be Lighted

Autor and other vehicles 5:00 p. m. The Tides FORT RICHMOND, CHESTNUT SUREST WHARF. temerrew tomorrow REEDY ISLAND.

BEATING TODAY There is sleating today on Con-course Luke in Fairmount Poels.

MAYOR HOPES FOR PEACE IN NEW YEAR'S GREETING

Mayor Biankenburg today addressed the following New Year message to the citizens of Philadelphia:

"A happy and prosperous New Year to all our people!

"May the coming year bring blessings and cheer to all homes that have been afflicted by business depression and by private sorrous, and may we all be permitted to share in the bounties given our whole country in the abundance of our harvest.

"May peace be concluded at an early day between the warring peoples of Europe and the brotherhood of man be permanently renewed and forever established among all the children of God."

ENGLAND DEVISES "WATERTIGHT" PACT FOR NEUTRAL SHIPS

Reply to America's Protest Against Ship Seizures Reported Framed—Pledge of Nations to Be Accepted.

BRITAIN'S ANSWER

HOURLY EXPECTED

LONDON, Dec. 31.—American Ambassador W. H. Page visited the Foreign Office this afternoon and held a conference with Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Secretary, relative to President Wilson's note protesting against interference with American shipping on the high seas by British warships.

WASHINGTON, Dec. \$1.-Secre-WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Secretary of State Bryan, after scanning a number of cable dispatches received today, announced that this Government hourly expected an answer from Great Britain to the protest against the detention and search of American ships. The Secretary declared the text of the protest would then be made public.

LONDON, Dec. 31. The feeling that there will be a speedy and amicable settlement of President Wilson's protest against British interference with American shipping on the high seas was strong here today. There was another meeting of the British Cabinet, at which Sir Edward Grey, the British Foreign Minister, presided, and afterward it was reported that the Foreign Office was now in a position to draft the outline of England's reply to the American Government's note. The formal reply probably will be delivered early next week through Sir Cecil Spring-Rice, British

Ambassador at Washington.

The Solution probably will be this:
The British Government will make arrangements with neutral countries through which American goods might which will make those countries "watertight" in so far as the possibil-ity of export therefrom of contra-bands is concerned. By this it is meant that the neutral governments of such countries as Italy, Holland and Denmark will be compelled to prohibit the passage of goods into Germany and Austria. When this "watertight" arrangement is made England will be able to relax the rights of searching American and rigers of searching American and other ships, which will obviate the long delays and inconvenience of which President Wilson complained. British newspapers continued today to discuss the American note at length. The Standard in its leading editorial warned

the country that the American protest was a serious one and should not be treated lightheartedly. The Standard goes on to say that the sentiment in the United States in favor of the Allies is less pronounced than it was three months ago and that it is yielding in favor of Germany as the underdog in the fight against

great odds. "Therefore," the paper says, "if any solution is possible the United States should be met half way." The Morning Post contends that Amer-

ican copper exporters have by no means been ruined, declaring that in September and October, 1913, they sold 10,000,000 pounds of copper to Italy, Holland, Nor-

Concluded on Page Six

SENATE RETAINS LITERACY TEST: VETO IS EXPECTED

Immigration Bill Will Go to Wilson With Provision He Opposes.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.-The literacy test was retained in the immigration bill by a vote of 47 to 13 in the Senate this afternoon. Senator Martine moved to strike out-the literacy test.

This vote indicated that the immigration bill containing the literacy test would be put squarely up to the President, who has openly asserted his oppoto it and is expected to veto the

ARIZONA DRY AT 12 P. M., BUT-Salconkeepers Will Stop Their Clocks

at Midnight. PHOENIX, Ariz. Dec. II—Salconkeep-ers will step their clocks at midnight when the State is supposed to go "dry" under the prohibition law of last No-

officials, it was said, would not inter-Officials, it was said, would not inter-fere if the clocks were started again by daylight. It will be "some" New Year's if plans to clean up all the liquor in Arisons before sunup go through. A number of salounksepers in towns along the border plan to remove their places of business across the line into

NORWOOD STATION ROBBED The Norwood station of the Maryland division of the Philadelphia, fightimore and Washington Railroad was visited by this was a sussent line and a small amount of money stores. A abot telephone machine was kroker and rifled of its contents paid a number of express packages were sawried of. RUINS OF FIRE THAT THREATENED ALL PLEASANTVILLE



This photograph shows the blazing wreck of a three-story building in Pleasantville, N. J., from which State Senator Bertram E. Whitman and wife barely escaped with their lives. The town's fire fighters were forced to call on Atlantic City for help in subduing the flames.

NEW YORK YANKEES FINALLY SOLD TO COLONEL RUPPERT

President Ban Johnson Announces Deal is Put Through, But Purchase Price is Kept Secret.

NEW YORK, Dec. 31,-The New York Yankees were finally sold this afternoon. President Ban Johnson, of the American League, got the deal put through after a day of bickering. The new owners are Col. Jacob Ruppert, Jr., and Capt. T. L. Huston, both of New York. The purchase price was kept private, but was estimated nt \$500,000.

In announcing consummation of the deal which has been hanging fire for weeks, President Johnson stated that several players were also considered in the trans-

ager. At present Donovan is in Philadel-

The sale was concluded today after an all-day conference by Johnson, Farrell, Devery and Huston. The deal hung fire for nearly a month.

Immediately after Johnson made official announcement of the sale Ruppert, the new owner, said, "I will act as presilent of the club and Captain Huston will be secretary and treasurer."

Johnson refused answers to questions as to the names of the five players who are to be turned over to the Yankees. Ruppert, at the outset of the negotia-Yankees he was to be given five good players and a first-class manager. One of the most surprising features of the entire Yankee deal was the hand Ban Johnson played in the matter. Johnson practically engineered the deal from be-ginning to end. He has stated that the reason why he dipped into matters which are supposed to be settled by club own-

ers was that the American League needed a new management in New York.

The trouble in the Yankee ranks began last summer when Frank Chance, who was manager at that time, had several battles with the owners because of the poor showing of his team. In the early fall Chance resigned his position as the Yankee leader, although he had a contract to finish the season.

However, the owners allowed Chance to abrogate the contract and they paid him his full year's salary. After Chance left the Yankees, Roger Peckinpaugh, the ahortshop, was made temporary manager.

'Peck" at the helm. From the time Chance resigned until the present, rumors that a sale would be made have been current. At the recent meeting of the National League and National Commission, held in New York, for s an announcement was made by Ban of the Johnson that the Yankees would be sold year. and that Colonel Ruppert and Huston would be the new owners. It is understood that the new owners have been nolding out to have the purchase price lowered from \$500,000 to \$450,000.

When the deal was first mentioned a story was printed to the effect that Rup-pert would not purchase unless John McGraw were made manager. Since then nearly every man in baseball has been mentioned among the probable managers. Connie Mack was not only men-tioned as a possibility for the managerial position, but for a time it was believed by many that he would purchase the

The Yankees under the new ownership intend to build a new, modern stadium capable of scating about 40,000 spectators.

BRUMBAUGH TO STUDY NEEDS OF ALL CLASSES

Governor-elect Will Tour State in Interest of Citizens.

Governor-elect Brumbaugh will intro-duce an innovation during his adminis-tration in the manner in which he will supervise legislation. He said today he intended to travel extensively through the State during his term as Governor, so that he could meet citizens in the country districts and talk over with them all

districts and talk over with them all legislation affecting them. In regard to city legislation, he said, all seasures affecting cities, especially Philadelphia and Pittsburgh, would have his careful personal supervision.

The Governor-elect returned today from Pittsburgh. He refused to discuss his Cabinet appointments or the Speakership, other than to say when he has decided upon his appointments he will announce them.

"No measure should be considered by

em. "No measure should be considered by a Lamplature unless there is a definite the Leniplature inlies there is a definite understanding of the problem that con-fronts it." he said. "Bills should be carefully drawn and carefully considered before they are passed. When 30 bills un the same subject are introduced, the problem that the measures try to solve becomes siculed and there is alight

JERSEY SENATOR AND WIFE POLICE MAGISTRATE OVERCOME AT BLAZE Rescued From Apartments in Fire at Pleasantville.

PLEASANTVILLE, N. J., Dec. 31 .- Two persons narrowly escaped being burned to death in a fire that swept through the three-story building at Washington and Main streets here today, entailing a loss of between \$35,000 and \$50,000.

Another fire at the same time at Northfield, near here, destroyed the home of William Trees, and one engine company was sent to help the firemen there.

An automobile engine company from

An automobile engine company from Atlantic City responded to a call for help sent out by the local department at 2 o'clock this morning, two hours after the blaze started. At that time the flames were threatening the entire business section of the town. Firemen did not get the blaze under control until dawn. State Senator Bertram E. Whitman and Mis. Whitman occupy apartments in the second floor of the building. Both were overcome and were carried out of the building unconscious.

CORONER'S JURY CENSURES PHILADELPHIA HOSPITAL

Verdict Attributes Child's Death to Careless Treatment.

Censure was directed against the Philadelphia General Hospital today by the Coroner's jury in the case of Clara Salts berg, 10 years old, who died at the hospital on December 35 from scalds received on Christmas Day when bathed by Beatrice Gilbert, an imbecile patient. According to the physicians at the Phil-delphia General Hospital, the child died

from pneumonia. Coroner Knight, in addressing the jury, said the hospital should certainly be cen-sured for permitting the bathing of a child inmate by another patient who was

irresponsible.

Beatrice Gilbert was called to testify. but her replies were so incoherent sh was recalled.

Serious disagreement between Dr. Edwin Wharton Storck, who was in charge of the dead child at the hospital after the accident, and Dr. W. F. Wadsworth, the Coroner's physician, was brought out when the former testifled that the child did not die as a result of shock sustained in the accident, while the latter maintained that she did.

Mrs. Ida Denny, of 329 South 6th street, a slater of the dead child, testifled that when she arrived at the hospital after hearing of the child's death she was refused all information on the accident and was treated with absolute discourtesy.

CLOUDY NEW YEAR'S DAY Weather Man Also Sees Possible Snow Flurries Today.

Cold, cloudy weather will mark the The team finished the season with advent of the new year tomorrow, according to the forecast of the local weather bureau. Temperatures just below the freezing point have made the ice on various Fairmount Park lakes ideal for skating and there should be plenty of the sport for the first day of the new

There is a possibility of light anow flurries this afternoon, according to Weather Forecaster Bliss, but not enough to last, so the mummers need not worry about the footing for the parade, as Broad street is now clear of ice and snow.

Police Await Orders on Auto Tags Automobile owners who have not yet ebtained their 1915 license tags will not be molested after midnight to night until further notice to the police from Superintendent Robinson. The Superintendent issued orders to this effect because of the failure of the State Highway Commissigner to notify the police department whether or not all the 1915 automobile taga already have been distributed.

Kaiser Greets the President BERLIN, Dec. 31.-Kaiser Wilhelm tolay sent New Year's greeting from his main headquarters to President Woodrow Wilson. The Kulser, in his message, wished for Mr. Wilson and for the United States a happy and prosperous new year,

House Passes Postal Appropriation WASHINGTON, Dec. 31.—Carrying approximately \$220,000,000, the Postal appropriation bill was passed by the House this afternoon.

"Monkey Business" in Congress and what it all means is explained in an entertaining and instructive article to be printed on the editorial page of tomorrow's

EVENING LEDGER This article is from the pen of o member of Congress, who is also o writer of wide repute,

E. W. TOWNSEND Such long established fustitutions as the Mace, dating back a thousand years; the formalities of the message and the transmission of information to the President are described. Order the Evening Ledger early from your neundealer.

SCANDAL MAY BE TAKEN TO COURT

District Attorney to Probe Renshaw's Charge That Stevenson Frees Prisoners Committed at City Hall.

Criminal prosecution may follow inrestigations brought about by charges made today against Magistrate Maxwell Stevenson, Jr., accused of releasing prisoners who had been committed to prison by Magistrate Renshaw, presiding at Central Police Court. This was the statement made today by District Attorney Rotan, when his attention was called to the charges made against Magistrate Stevenson by Magistrate Renshaw. Renshaw accused Stevenson of having released hundreds of disorderly characters after they had been committed to jall, and charged that the releases were arranged through collusion with Henry M. Stevenson, his brother, an attorney with offices in the Land

Title Building. Judge Stanke will be asked to review the cases of several women who were released on Stevenson's order after they had been committed by Magistrate Ren-shaw. The investigation will be held in January, according to District Attorney

RELEASE FOLLOWS COMMITMENT. That hundreds of notorious pickpockets arrested by City Hall detectives early in December were released by Magistrate Stevenson in time to work the Christmas ers was one of the charges brought against him by Magistrate Renshaw. All the more serious Magistrate court cases are brought before him at City Hall. But the other Magistrates, unable to mete out their own idea of justice because of out their own idea of justice because of this rule, have been discharging prison-ers committed by Renshaw as soon as copies of the charges were presented to them, it is charged. In this way the police have arrested time after time the same persons accused of minor crimes. That Magistrate Stevenson was acting illegally in releasing the prisoners was the statement of Mr. Rotan this morning. Mr. Rotan declared that the matter would be brought into court and the Magistrate's powers established beyond

"The practice of Magistrates releasing prisoners who have been held by other Magistrates is illegal and wrong, in my opinion," said Mr. Rotan. "Such practices should immediately be discon-

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AIRMEN ATTACK DUNKIRK. KILLING 15, WOUNDING 32

German Raiders Wreck Houses. Aged Woman Slain.

LONDON, Dec. 31. German aeroplanes today raided Dun-kirk and for more than half an hour dropped bombs all over the town. The fleet comprised four aeroplanes, both Taubes and Aviatiks, which flew several times across the town, dropping bombs or each journey. Soldiers in the streets eplied with a vigorous rifle fire, but all got away safely. One seemed to have been hit, for he turned on his head and descended several hundred feet before

righting.
The town was in a state of much excitement. Buildings and windows were smashed in all directions. The first bomb fell on the fortifications. Two more fell near the railway station, another in the Rue Caumartin, another in the kitchen of the military hospital, another near the town hall, others in the Rues Pierre and Nieuport, and the last near the arsenal. Two fell in the suburb of Resendael and

on the jute factory districts of Soudel-kerque. Furnes also suffered many wounded. There the official return of casualties at 4 o'clock this afternoon was 15 killed and 25 wounded. One child had an arm blown off, while another, with an aged woman, was killed outright, being dreadfully disfigured.

The bombs were filled with shrapnel, which pitted the walls and buildings. A fifth German aeroplane remained as sentry outside the town, holding itself in readiness to attack any of the Allies' aeroplanes.

CORONER HOLDS AUTO DRIVER Frederick Ehrenpfort, owner of the hotel at Willow Grove, was held today to await the action of the Grand Jury, after the Corener had rendered a declaice in connection with the death of Frank Hart-man, 610 West Lehigh avenue. Hartman died in the Frankfurd Hospital on Decem-ber 22 from injuries sustained while riding in an automobile owned and driven by line an automobile ran into a between the hours of it and I seek day wagon on masteria pike. Hartman had been amplored as bartendar for Waren.

OFFICIAL WAR REPORTS

FRENCH

From the sea as far as the Alsne the day has been rather calm, with the exception of a few artillery duela at some points.

at some points.
In Champagne, to the west of La-Ferme d'Alger (to the north of Sil-lery, on the sector of Rheims), the enemy during the night had blown up two of our trenches and afterward made an attack against them, which was repulsed.

made an attack against them, which was repulsed.

To the north of Mesnit-les-Hurius we have taken the trenches of the second line of defense of the enemy. In the same region, to the north of La Ferme d'Beausejour, we also captured some trenches. The enemy made a counter attack, but it was repulsed, and we ourselves took the offensive in our turn, winning some ground.

turn, winning some ground.

In the same region, and more to the east, the German forces which were advancing to make a counter attack were caught between the fire of our artillery and rolled back.

In the Argonne, near Fontaine Ma-dame, we blew up a mine and occupied the excavation, at the same time mak-ing align

the excavation, at the same time making slight progress.

Between the Meuse and Moselle, in the region of the forest of Mortemart, 159 metres more or less of German trenches have fallen into our hands. In Upper Alsace our troops have entered the town of Steinbach and captured one-half of it after a terrific house-to-house combat.

RUSSIAN

Along the whole front of the armies operating on the left bank of the Vistula there has been a lull except in the region of Bollmow, Inowlods and south of Malagoszoz, where flerce

south of Malagoszoz, where flerce fighting persists. "
Near Inowlodz our troops took possession of German trenches south of Possado, which they entered and engaged in determined fighting.

In West Galicia our troops are advancing victoriously. East of Zakliczyn we stormed several fortified works of the enemy.

Southwest of Dukla our troops dislodged the Austrians from positions which they had strongly organized. They fied in a panic.

GERMAN

In the Western theatre of war it was generally quiet on the coast yesterday. The enemy directed his fire upon Westende and destroyed part of the houses without causing any military

damage.

An entire French company was annihilated when we blew up a line of trenches near La Ferme d'Alger and Auberive, southeast of Rheims. Strong French attacks north of Chalons-sur-Marne were everywhere repulsed.

In the western part of the Argonne region we gained considerable ground, capturing several trenches, one behind the other. We took 250 French pris-

oners. French attacks in the region of Flierey, 14 miles north of Toul and nine miles west of Pont-a-Mousson, falled. In the region of West Sennheim, in Upper Alsace, all French attacks broke down under the fire of our artillery.

The enemy's artillery systematically destroyed the houses in the village of Steinbach, which was in our possession. Our losses, however, were slight. Eastern theatre of war—The situaof the Weichsel (Vistula), is unchanged. East of the Baura the battles continue.

Our offensive in the Rawka district is progressing. On the eastern bank of the Pilica the situation is unchanged.

AUSTRIAN Our troops fighting in the Carpathians are meeting with success in their efforts to stem the Russian advance. Reinforcements are being sent to that Russian attempts to Dunajec River near Zakliczyn

have falled. In the Balkan theatre of war there in the Bakan theatre of war there is nothing to report.
Russian official statements are greatly exaggerated. While it is true that the Russians have captured some Austrian officers, as well as men of the common ranks, all their esti-

THOUSANDS PRAY IN BIG TABERNACLE SERVICES TONIGHT

Dedication of "Billy" Sunday's Great Hall to Be Accompanied by Watchnight Ceremony.

"Billy" Sunday's big tabernacle, at 19th and Vine streets, in which it is expected that more than 100,000 will "hit the trail," will be dedicated tonight. The ceremonies will take place in the presence of Governor-elect Martin G. Brumbaugh, who will take part in the exercises. It is the belief of the campaign leaders that nearly 20,000 persons will crowd into the build-

ing. The Rev. Dr. George H. Bickley, chairman of the Prayer-meeting Committee and vice chairman of the General Committee, will preside. The big double choir of 2600 voices will sing and there will be special solotsts, both vocal and instrumental. The Rev. Dr. Mattland Alexandar, of Pittsburgh, moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly, will speak.

Others who will be heard are the Rev. E. H. Emett, one of Mr. Sunday's asalistants in organisation work; the Rev. Dr. Russell H. Conwell, the Rev. Dr. A. Pohiman, the Rev. Dr. Carl A. Gram-mer, Bishop Joseph F. Berry, the Rev. Dr. John B. Davies, George Inneas, Wil-Ham T. Eilis and Joseph M. Stesle, chairman of the Building Committee.
At the conclusion of the dedication serv-

At the conclusion of the sedication services a watch-night meeting will be held, and many thousands of persons will be offering prayers in the tabernacie when the clocks strike it, saking that the "Billy" Sunday campaign shall be a great power for good in the city.

Solos will be sung by Benjamin T. Evans, Dr. George C. Anthony and Mrs. Nettle M. Chain. F. Nevin Wiest cornected of the Lemon Hill Association, will play solos.

During the "Billy" Sunday compaign funcheons for working girls of the central section of the city will be provided, at a cost of 5 cents a day, in recens at 1215 and 1212 Arch street. Provisions will be reads for serving at least 2005 girls and women between the hours of H and 2 cach day. May Frances Miller, one of the leaders

ALSACE TOWN CAPTURED BY **ALLIES AFTER** FIERCE FIGHT

Steinbach, Key to Altkirch and Mulhausen, Taken After Desperate Houseto-House Battle-German Machine Guns Rain Fire on Invaders From Housetops.

Kaiser's Sappers Blow Up Foe's Trenches in Champagne, But Allies Retaliate by Destroying Opposing Defenses in the Argonne and Capturing Others Between the Meuse and the Moselle.

The French army which had been ivesting Steinbach, in Upper Alsace, as captured the city after a furious house-to-house conflict. Official announcement to this effect was made by the French War Office today. It was admitted that the Germana

have made a gain in the Champague district to the west of La Ferme d'Alger, where two lines of trenches were blown up. At Mesnil-les-Hurlus, 27 miles southeast of Rheims, the French have taken the trenches of the German second line.

In the Argonne the French blew up mine and occupied the excavation. Between the Meuse and Moselle, German trenches about 150 metres in length, fell into the hands of the

The Germans have rushed heavy artillery to the front between Skierniewice and the Pilica River to protect their centre from the newly developed Russian offensive. On the east bank of the Bzura the Germans have been they occupied at great cost a short time ago. This gives the Czar control of the zone of fighting, of which

Sochaczew is the centre. In Galicia the Russian advance seems to be progressing toward Cracow, though the Austrians report repulse of the foe in the Carpathian passes, thus preventing a new invasion of Hungary.

FRENCH CAPTURE STEINBACH IN HOUSE-TO-HOUSE FIGHT

Way Opened to Altkirch and Mulhausen by Taking of Town.

PARIS, Dec. 31. The French have captured the village of Steinbach, in Upper Alsace, following one of the hardest-fought engagements of the war on the eastern front. They had literally to battle their way from house to house, meeting a raking michine-gun fire from Gormans on the roof-tops and in windows. The losses on both sides were very large. Occupation of this position is declared officially to be of the utmost strategic importance, opening as it does the way to the roads that run to Aitkirch and Mulhausen.

Announcement of this victory for the

FRANCIS JOSEPH ABDICATES THRONE, SAYS SWISS REPORT

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Aged Emperor Declared to Have Forsaken Rule.

LONDON, Dec. 31.—The following news agency dispatch was received here today from Paris: "A report from Switzerland, which was published here today, states that Emperor Francis Joseph of Austrialias abdicated the throne of the Dual It was impossible to obtain any con-firmation of the rumor and it received little credence in London.

Marconi Gets Italian Togo ROME, Dec. II.—A decrae greating Guglietmo Marconi, noted inventor, as a member of the Italian Senate was signed by the King today.

LOST AND FOUND